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STATEMENT AS READ AND PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTION ON MARCH 21, 2012
FOR THE HEARING OF RAISED BILL #5519 AND LCO #2391 AT THE
STATE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

My wife and I want to express our thanks to all concerned responsible for the writing and presentation of this Raised Bill #5519. With its passage, it will enable past property owners to purchase back at fair market value land taken under eminent domain.

The 29 acre parcel as outlined in Section 15 of Raised Bill #5519 was taken by the DOT under eminent domain in 1984 for the U.S. 6 Expressway which never materialized. The 29 acre parcel was never included in the engineering plans for the U.S. Expressway. This 29 acre piece of land is in a flood plain area and is mostly wetlands. Engineering plans and perc tests have shown that only 2 to 3 acres is buildable land.

My wife and I own 98 acres across the street from this parcel which has been approved, on condition, by the Town of Andover for a senior housing village. Engineering plans show that 80 to 90 units can be built comprising 160 to 180 senior citizens. The Town of Andover is highly in favor of this project.

The 29 acre parcel will be used for recreational and agricultural purposes for the senior citizens for garden plots and walking paths. There is a possibility of building a clubhouse on the buildable land. The 29 acres has approximately 600 feet frontage on the Hop River which would be utilized as a picnic area.

In the past, the question of a "green belt" on Bunker Hill Road arose. The Town of Andover has a "green belt" running through the entire town following Route 6. The "green belt" is for the public for hiking and bicycling. Bunker Hill Road has houses along the street from Andover to Coventry. One cannot realize even the remote possibility of a "green belt" on Bunker Hill Road.

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